

Meeting Minutes: Virginia Indian Advisory Board State Recognition Workgroup Meeting
12.02.2021

- Abbey Phillips & Secretary Thomasson kicks off meeting at 4:05pm
- Secretary Thomasson explains background of VIAB appointed-workgroup
- SoC reviews agenda
- Introduction of workgroup
 - Brad Hatch introduces himself
 - Buck Woodard introduces himself
 - David Cornsilk introduces himself
 - Gregory Smithers introduces himself
 - Pamela Ross introduces herself
 - Courtney Wynn introduces herself
 - Acknowledgement of Brandon Custalow and Julie Langan
- Housekeeping
 - FOIA discussion by SoC
 - Briefly walkthrough documents of structure of workgroup
- Cornsilk advocates for central facilitator or chair of workgroup
- Motion for chair
 - Buck calls for it
 - Second by Pam
 - Voice vote aye by board
- Cornsilk motions for Buck to be chair
 - 2nded by board member Greg Smithers
 - Voice vote aye by board
- SoC explains document "Workgroup Purpose & Role"
- Public Comment
 - Bill Hurd, attorney at Troutman Pepper, representing Wolf Creek
 - Has experience representing tribes in relation to tribal sovereignty and tribal issues
 - Requesting workgroup keep open mind
 - Requesting minimum of 2 weeks notice of these meetings to Wolf Creek & their legal representation
- How does 2 weeks notice request comply with public meeting law?- Cornsilk
 - SoC- FOIA laws requires 3 days notices
 - Cornsilk suggests 10 days notice- a way to meet in the middle
 - Motion for 10 days notice
 - 2nd by Brad
 - Vote: aye voice vote
- Housekeeping questions by Buck Woodard
- SoC- administration transition and questions answered
- Public Comment by Wolf Creek tribe- Annette Price encourages all workgroup members to visit Wolf Creek museum in Henrico, Virginia.

- Cornsilk doesn't work for Cherokee Nation, and he will be fair and focus on the genealogy when making his decision on the petition and believes he can do so without any concerns of bias
 - Plans to review the genealogy individually
 - Believes the workgroup needs to split up the tasks of reviewing the petition
 - Smithers echoes those thoughts
- Woodard raises concerns that the petition is not organized in the form of the criterion.
- Floats idea of creating letter of obvious deficiencies to address that
 - Indicates that with federal petitions sent to OFA, burden of criterion is on petitioner, and they usually retain experts to help them organize it in that correct form.
- Hurd comment regarding documents
- Cornsilk clarifies- can we ask petitioner to furnish more documents? SoC indicates yes.
- Group members discuss wanting more time to discuss documents
- Buck Woodard points out that no group has ever met this criteria before
- Floating first week of January for follow-up meeting
- Understanding that the entire workgroup will have fully reviewed the petition by then.
- Cornsilk and Woodward discuss how to resolve potential group disagreements
- Mailers for large documents going out to workgroup members
- SoC- binders for workgroup so they can do their jobs
- SoC points out that GA authorized small amount of funds to cover costs of workgroup
- Cornsilk wants a hard copy of the petition
- Cornsilk motions for adjournment
 - Aye by voice vote